

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2228

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 17 , 2023

RE: S.C.R. No. 35

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 35 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING WATER ACCESS AND STRENGTHENING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ON HAWAII ISLAND,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Hawaii County Department of Water Supply to convene a working group to examine opportunities for increasing water access and strengthening water infrastructure for underserved communities on Hawaii Island.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from Ku Pono Aloha Farms, LLC.

Your Committee finds that many communities located on the southwestern side of Hawaii Island lack access to county water infrastructure, posing a glaring example of structural inequality for that part of the island, which ranks below the state average in household income, educational attainment, and other key social and economic indicators. Your Committee further finds that lack of access to a consistent water supply prevents the development of basic infrastructure in rural and remote areas, including the

2023-3217 SCR35 HD1 HSCR HMSO



establishment of public schools, medical and community health centers, grocery stores, and financial institutions. The working group contemplated by this measure would evaluate ways to address this water access inequity and involve key stakeholders in the process.

Your Committee has amended this measure by specifically requesting that the Hawaii County Department of Water Supply invite Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and members of the Native Hawaiian community to participate in the working group.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 35, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 35, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,

  
FOR LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair



